

# USS FRANK CABLE (AS 40)

**Submarine Tenders** furnish logistic and maintenance support for U.S. Navy submarines.

## **Background:**

The "*L.Y. Spear*" class of sub tender accommodates attack submarines and can simultaneously service up to four submarines moored alongside.



*USS Frank Cable (AS 40)*

## **General Information, L. Y. Spear Class**

**Builder:** *AS 39 thru AS 41, Lockheed Shipbuilding & Construction Co.*  
**Propulsion:** *Two boilers, geared turbines, one shaft, 20,000 shaft horsepower*  
**Length:** *644 feet (193.2 meters)*      **Beam:** *85 feet (25.5 meters)*  
**Displacement:** *Approximately 23,493 tons (23,870.02 metric tons) full load*  
**Crew:** *Approximately 97 officers and 1,266 enlisted*

## **A Brief History Of The Ship**

USS FRANK CABLE (AS 40) was built by Lockheed Shipbuilding and Construction Company, Seattle, WA. The ship was christened January 14, 1978 by Mrs. Rose A. Michaelis, wife of Admiral F. H. Michaelis, then Chief of Naval Material.

Commissioned on February 5, 1980, FRANK CABLE was designed to tend the nuclear-powered Los Angeles-class attack submarines. The ship spent 1980 until 1996 as the repair ship for Submarine Squadrons FOUR and EIGHTEEN in Charleston, South Carolina, tending Sturgeon-class attack submarines and Benjamin Franklin-class ballistic missile submarines. FRANK CABLE began decommissioning in 1996, but was reactivated and refitted to replace the USS HOLLAND (AS 32) in the Western Pacific as Commander Seventh Fleet's mobile repair and support platform.

Since arriving in Guam, FRANK CABLE has visited many Western Pacific cities in support of U.S. forces. A few of those included are Brisbane, Australia; Hong Kong; Singapore; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and Yokosuka, Japan. In 1997, the ship was heavily involved with the rescue and recovery efforts following the Korean Airline Flight 801 crash on Guam, and also in the recovery and clean-up efforts following Super Typhoon Paka.

FRANK CABLE received a Humanitarian Service Medal for support provided in recovery efforts on Guam following Super Typhoon Pongsona in 2002.

From 1980 to 2006, FRANK CABLE has garnered awards as a unit of both the Atlantic and Pacific Fleets, including nine Meritorious Unit Commendations, twelve Battle Efficiency "E" awards and four Golden Anchor Awards. The crew continues to reach out to the local community through a variety of causes including assistance to the elderly, working with children and supporting local animal shelters.

# **USS FRANK CABLE (AS 40)**



## **Frank T. Cable – Submarine Pioneer**

**Frank Taylor Cable (1863-1945)** was an early pioneer in submarine development for the U.S. Navy. He was the civilian commander of the developmental submarine USS Holland (SS-1) before it was accepted for U.S. Navy service and commissioned in 1900. As an associate of the inventor John Holland, Frank Cable specialized in the design and production of propulsion machinery, including diesel engines and electric motors. He was one of the founders of the Electric Boat Company. General Dynamics- Electric Boat still exists today, constructing the U.S. Navy's most modern Seawolf and Virginia class nuclear powered submarines.

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